

AGENDA
STATE SOIL CONSERVATION BOARD MEETING
9:00 a.m., Tuesday, January 16, 2007
IASWCD Annual Conference
Indianapolis Marriott Downtown, Ballroom 4
250 W. Maryland Street,
Indianapolis, Indiana.

Attendance

Ray Chattin, Knox SWCD
Jon Roberts, Kosciusko SWCD
Glenn Lange, Marion SWCD
Sherm Bryant, Kosciusko SWCD
Jim Droege, Posey SWCD
Donald Black, Delaware SWCD
Jerod Chew, ISDA
Tammy Lawson, ISDA
Waneta Lowe, ISDA
Andy Miller, ISDA
Ken Eck, ISDA
Dan Hovland, NRCS
Jane Hardisty, NRCS

Ray McCormick, Knox SWCD
Dan Dunten, ISDA
Brian Spurgin, Fayette SWCD
Tara Henry, ISDA
Mary Renshaw, IDEM
Becky Ross, NRCS
Christa Jones, Indiana SWCD Foundation
Judi Brown, Dubois SWCD
Bobby Hettmansperger, Wabash SWCD
Joe Carroll, IASWCD Secretary-Huntington SWCD
John South, Hamilton SWCD
Judy Wilkinson, Hamilton SWCD

I. 9:00 AM: Call to Order

Meeting was called to order by Chairman Bob Eddleman at 9:04 AM. SSCB members in attendance were: Warren Baird, Nola Gentry, Bill Mann, Robert Eddleman, Larry Clemens, and Jim Cherry, with introductions given for all guests in attendance.

II. Draft Minutes of November 2006

Minutes were approved as distributed (Mann/Gentry).

Andy Miller, ISDA, spoke on Governor's budget and upcoming State of the State presentation, esp. as it relates to soil and water conservation. State expects 4.5% growth for the state, so will be capping State budget increases at 4%. Education and Health Care are two largest concerns for Indiana, so increases to other concerns could be tight. Soil conservation programs may be given a proposed \$2.5 million increase for next budget, mainly to pursue federal matching dollars in conservation programs.

The challenge to Governor and Conservation Partners will be to promote the need for the requested conservation funding increases. Several crucial basic principals for the use of these funds will be to 1.) lead with innovative programs and additional funding sources, 2.) create innovative programs are well designed and used, and 3.) insure that all funds utilized show that those funds are producing the conservation benefits promised to funding sources. Emphasis on performance will be on showing how State programs bring in additional federal dollars and how programs address soil erosion, water quality and nutrient loading concerns.

III. Leadership Development:

A. Supervisor Resignations/Appointments-Waneta Lowe

Knox SWCD had one appointment – Ronald Ray McCormick – due to the death of a previous supervisor. Appointment was accepted by SSCB. (Mann/Cherry)

B. Annual Meeting/Election Update-Waneta Lowe

Listings of 2007 Annual Meetings were made available to all interested.

C. District Requests-Bob Eddleman

Knox SWCD requested the waiver of the 10 acre requirement for elected supervisors, and whether or not the request could be a permanent, rather than the current temporary, waiver. Chairman Ray Chattin presented comments from the Knox SWCD suggesting that the SSCB reconsider their current position on its use. Knox SWCD's view is that it serves as a tool to keep an agricultural base in effect on local Districts, and potentially weakens the overall Conservation Partnership.

SSCB members discussed points presented from the Knox SWCD's comments.

D. Leadership Development Workgroup Update-No Report

E. District Support/Updates-No Report

IV. Delivery System:

A. Delivery System Workgroup Update-No Report

V. Funding:

A. CREP Update-Jerod Chew

Currently taking ten additional field staff in CREP areas, and dedicating these staff to implementing program. ISDA will also be working with USDA FSA to try to re-sign up individuals with expiring CRP contracts.

B. Clean Water Indiana Grants-No Report

C. Funding Workgroup Update-No Report

VI. Accountability:

A. Accountability Workgroup Update-No Report

VII. Technology:

A. Technology Workgroup Update-No Report

VIII. Outreach:

A. Outreach Workgroup Update-No Report

IX. SSCB Chairman's Report- Bob Eddleman

A. SSCB Discussions

CWI Grants to Districts – Chairman Eddleman discussed having a formal process for feedback from the current CWI grant process. Potential CWI regional meeting/sessions for SWCDs were

presented as a possible process to provide feedback to a state CWI focus group for any changes needed before the next granting round. SSCB will proceed with the use of March 2007 meetings as a basis for SWCD CWI feedback to the SSCB.

X. ISDA Report-Tammy Lawson

Referred to report given by Andy Miller.

XI. DNR Report-Gary Langell

(No report)

XII. IDEM Report-MaryLou Renshaw

Reorganizations discussed. Reassessments of agency resources, esp. the assessment of water bodies and de-listing concerned bodies. Applicants for 319 have been reviewed. Completed over 600 TMDLs' for EPA.

XIII. Purdue Report-Tom Jordan

(No report)

XIV. IASWCD President's Report- Gene Weaver

2007 Annual Conference of SWCDs currently underway. State drink initiative (naming "water" as the state drink) is continuing, and will be brought forward by Senator Kruse. "Conservation Day" will take place on January 23, 2007.

XV. NRCS State Conservationist's Report-Jane Hardisty

Dan Hovland filled in for Jane Hardisty. USDA has \$3 million deficit, with concern on assistance to non-federal program assistance. New staff assignments were announced.

XVI. Farm Services Agency Report-Doug Hovermale

(No report)

XVII. SWCD Foundation & NACD Reports-Christa Jones

The objectives of the Foundation were presented those attending. Innovative approaches to establishing funding sources through local sources were discussed and encouraged.

The continuing resolution in Congress related to USDA funding was discussed. Promotion of the Senate funding figures to legislators was encouraged while speaking with Congressman.

XVIII. Public Comment

XIX. Next Meeting: February 13, 2007 at ISDA

XX. Adjourn

Minutes Prepared by Ken Eck

Approved By:

Draft

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**Indiana Association of
Soil and Water
Conservation Districts**

Protecting and enhancing Indiana's soil
and water resources for all Hoosiers



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To: State Soil Conservation Board

From: Gene Weaver, President, IASWCD

Date: Tuesday, January 16, 2007

2007 Soil and Water Conservation Districts Annual Conference

- Over 350 registered
- Full exhibit hall – 36 exhibitors
- 2 conference sponsors (ArborTerra Consulting and Indiana Ready Mixed Concrete Association)
- 8 conference supporters

State Drink Initiative

- Senator Kruse to announce on Wednesday, Jan. 17 at the General Session his intent to submit a Resolution declaring “water” as the state drink of Indiana.

Conservation Day

- Conservation Day at the statehouse, sponsored by the Indiana Conservation Alliance, is on Tuesday, January 23, 2007.

Other

- IASWCD has become an at-large member of the Indiana Conservation Alliance
- IASWCD new employee – Elizabeth Trybula, Watershed Information Specialist

THE IASWCD MISSION is to represent SWCDs as one voice and assist the leadership of local Districts through coordination and education for the wise use and management of our natural resources.



Knox County Soil and Water Conservation District

2615 Hart Street • Vincennes, Indiana 47591 • Phone (812) 882-5948

Bringing home the herd for soil and water stewardship is everyone in Knox County

January 10, 2007

Bob Eddleman,
State Soil Conservation Board
Indiana State Department of Agriculture
101 W. Ohio St. Suite 1200
Indianapolis, IN 46204

Dear Mr. Eddleman,

This letter is in reference to the request submitted by the Knox County SWCD for relief from compliance to the 10 acre rule. Although the request was granted, it was done on a one time basis. It was the intent of the Knox County request to receive a permanent waiver. In reading the amended District Law, there is nothing to indicate that the granting of a permanent waiver by your board would be contrary to the law. The undersigned Supervisors therefore hereby request that the State Soil Conservation Board grant the Knox County SWCD permanent relief from the 10 acre rule. The Knox County SWCD board also respectfully requests that our chairman, Ray Chatten be permitted to briefly address this issue at the January 12, 2007 SSCB meeting in Indianapolis.

Sincerely,

Ray Chatten
Terry Perkins
Mike Burkhardt
James L. Chatten

All programs and services of the Knox County Soil and Water Conservation District are offered on a nondiscriminatory basis without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, marital status or handicap.

CONSERVATION • DEVELOPMENT • SELF-GOVERNMENT

To the members of the State Soil Conservation Board:

I wish to address you regarding your response to Knox Co. SWCD's request for relief from the 10 acre rule and more importantly, regarding your interpretation of that rule as revised in District Law, for I feel strongly that the future of this partnership depends on the type and quality of leadership that is exercised on its behalf at all levels.

The 10 acre rule is a control mechanism designed to ensure agricultural control on SWCD boards. It also controls local SWCD Boards by effectively restricting the pool from which elected supervisor candidates may be selected. Although control may be considered a very effective leadership tool in some circumstances, I submit that it has no place within the framework of a functional partnership. Oversight, on the other hand is a necessary and useful function. With or without the 10 acre rule, the SSCB has the authority and the obligation to review and subsequently accept or reject any nominee submitted for supervisor. As long as that authority is exercised on each candidate based on that individual's merit and qualification, I have no quarrel. The 10 acre rule overrules such authority by going from oversight, to control by taking the decision making process out of the hands of local boards.

In a true partnership, effective leadership should seek to empower Districts, the 10 acre rule disenfranchises them.

In a partnership, I believe that good leadership should be based on respect and trust for those whom you wish to lead. In demanding that a District petition the SSCB each time they wish to put a non land owner on the ballot, you reflect a lack of respect for the judgment and knowledge of that local SWCD Board as well as a lack of trust in their motives for making that decision even before the identity of the candidate is known. Finally, I believe that recruitment of supervisors is one of the most important leadership responsibilities of a local board. In recruiting a potential supervisor, if I could choose between ownership or leadership, I would put the premium on leadership 100 fold. Give me two hours driving in my car with an individual and I can instill a sense of stewardship. Leadership is a far rarer and more precious commodity. It is also critical to the future of this movement, particularly as it relates to Districts and their potential role.

If the state of leadership within the grassroots conservation community in Indiana is such that we must hold the dubious distinction of being the only state that finds it necessary to arbitrarily exclude any taxpayer of voting age who does not own 10 acres from the

ballot election process then I strongly suggest the Partnership address that deficiency in leadership in order that we might mold supervisors into the kind of leaders who have the skills, the passion and the vision for conservation to merit the office of SWCD

Supervisor, in a free & democratic forum. Our credibility depends on it!

In ruling on the interpretation of the revised District Law with respect to the 10 acre rule, you have the opportunity to send a powerful message, not only to Districts, but to all partnership entities as to the style of leadership you wish to exercise. You also have the opportunity to be a role model. That model can be based on oversight or control, empowerment or disenfranchisement, trust and respect or the lack thereof. Your leadership can be an affirmation of faith in the principles of locally led conservation or the denial of its promise for the future.

In petitioning this board for permanent relief from the restrictions of the 10 acre rule, the Supervisors of Knox Co. SWCD ask you to respect our judgment, knowledge and motives in our pursuit of new leadership for Knox County, knowing that we value and respect your oversight authority with respect to every candidate we submit, whether for elected or appointed positions.

Ray Chattin
Chairman, Knox Co. SWCD